A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 22. 1709.

I Am come to the laſt, and indeed I think, the only Difficulty in the Affair of Recruiting the Army; the Propoſal is to raiſe them by the Pariſhes, and, *how will you do this*, ſays the Objector? The Proportions will agree no manner of way, but the Inequalities will be unavoidable and innumerable——— Let us hear the Objections.

1. If you lay it poſitively, a Man, or a certain Number of Men upon each Pariſh, *and the ſame to every Pariſh*, you make an infinite Diſparity; for ſome ſmall Country-Pariſhes, narrow in Compaſs, thin of Inhabitants, where they have Men little enough to cultivate the very Land, and perform the common Duties of Husbandry, *cannot raiſe them at all*; other great manufacturing Towns and large Markets conſiſting of great Numbers of Inhabtants, *and yet but one Pariſh*, can better ſpare *ten Men*, than theſe other can ſpare *one*.

For Example, Suppoſe two Men to a Pariſh be the Subſtance of the Act—— And here are in *England* the great Towns of *Manchester*, *Sheffield*, *Wakefield*, *Doncaſter*, *Leeds*, *Halliſax*, *Yarmouth*, *Taunton*, *Tiverton*, *Birmingham*, *Sudbury*, *Tewxbury*, and the like, ſome of which Towns have 30000 Inhabitants, *Halliſax* they ſay 100000, and yet contain but one Pariſh each, and the moſt but two; to raiſe but *two Men* out

out of each of these Parishes, and at the same time go into the Marshes of *Kent*, the Hundreds of *Essex*, and such Places, where several Parishes have not an hundred Inhabitants; or into *Northamptonshire*, *Warwickshire* and *Leicestershire*, where the Parishes stand thick, and the Country being principally employ'd in grazing, is not populous, and demand two Men out of each Parish, where they could very ill spare them, the Proportion would be unequal.

2. *Suppose you lay it* upon the whole Country by the Rate of the Tax, *I mean the Land Tax*, which has been another Proportion talk'd very much of—Yet this, they say, would be also unequal, and perhaps unpracticable; and the Reason of this is, what has been long complain'd of, and I doubt may be *yet* long complain'd of *without Redress*; I mean the Inequality of the Land Tax it self, which has so many several Disproportions in it, as are too long to treat of here, and which are generally known; but has these two proper to the present Purpose, and which it's believ'd, no Body will dispute.

1. That the Value of the Tax and the Number of the People bear no Proportion at all in the Places where they lie; *or thus*, The Value of the Tax does not rise where the Numbers of People are found, but rather just the contrary; *For Example*, The Tax is rais'd upon Lands, and the People live in large Towns; *to speak to the Knowledge of the Town*, take the Town of *Barnet*, and the Town of *Hornsey* in *Middlesex*; the first a large Market full of Inhabitants and but little Land, the Town of *Hornsey* a Parish of vast Extent, full of rich Lands, but little or no Town, and very few People, just enough to manage their Land; and if they did not hire our *North* and *West* Country People, who in the Season travel for Harvest-Work, all the Inhabitants could not mow half their Grass——— This Town pays six times the Tax that *Barnet* pays, yet *Barnet* is able to raise 3 Men for *Hornsey*'s 1, to serve the QUEEN; by this Law, if *Barnet* came to be rated at 4 Men, which it could very well spare, *Hornsey* must raise 24, which it could not do, unless some of the poor Farmers were forc'd to go from their Farms and their Families into the Army.

2. The *North* and *West* Parts of *England* which are the most populous, fullest of Inhabitants, and have the most Men to spare, do not in the Land Tax pay above half, nay in some Places not a third of what is paid by the *Southern* and *Midland* Counties, some of which have no Proportion of Inhabitants to the *Northern* or *Western* Counties.

From these two Cases it seems plain, that the Men cannot be rais'd either by the Parishes under an equal Alotment, or by a Proportion from the Land-Tax.

And yet the Difficulty of raising the Men does not seem to me to be so great, as some People would have us to imagine; the Foundation of a Proportion is plain, and the Proportion it self is plain.

1. The Foundation of a Proportion is plain; To talk of raising of Men by the Value of Land, or by Number of Parishes, seems to be bringing Things together that have no Coherence; as if a Man should be rated in the Land Tax, not by the Estate he has, but by the Quantity of Hair on his Head; the Foundation of a Proportion to raise Men upon, must be the Numbers of Men, not the Numbers of Parishes; the Quantity of People, not the Quantity of Land; a Tax of Money is rais'd upon Money, and a Tax on the People must be rais'd on the People, or else we talk of one thing, when we should talk of another.

2. If then you want to raise Men to recruit the Army, let us examine, *where* the Men are, and *there* they will be found; nor is this so difficult a Thing, as some People may imagine———

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The Books of the Commissioners, for the late Taxes for Births and Burials, will give a very fair Prospect of it, if not an exact Account——Or the present Surveyors of the Glass Window Tax may do the like; and when you can find out the Number of Families or Number of Houses, whether great or small, you may the more readily come to the Point.

It remains then to examine, what the Proportion of People is and how they may be taken without Prejudice to the Nation, or Partiality to the People themselves. This depends indeed much upon the Number of Men wanted; and that I am not to meddle with—But I'll put it to a suppos'd Number. And I'll take it at 10000 Men; it seems a strange Thing, that we should find so much Difficulty to raise ten thousand Men in two Islands, *where* I believe, I need bring no Authorities to justifie my Suggestion, that *there are* at this Time ten Millions of People.

What Oppression or Invasion of Liberty can it be suppos'd to be in this Case, when by Authority of Parliament, one Man out of every Thousand of the Inhabitants shall be call'd out to defend the Country against *French* Tyranny, and preserve the Nations Liberty.

I know, it will be objected, That of this Thousand, the far greater Part are Women and Children, and I allow it, and so I'll bring it to a nearer Calculation, *Viz.* That but one fifth Part of this Number are what what we call fighting Men; and if this be true, then the Levy of Men we are upon, is one Man out of every two Hundred; And he that pleases to call this an Oppression, must come to a farther Calculation, *Viz.* What Proportion the Poor bear to the Rich.

I have met with little in all the Essays at Political Arithmetick that I have seen, to form this Thought upon; but if I may be allow'd to form my own Conjectures, from what I have observ'd in *England*, after being able to say that I have been almost in every Corner of *England* my self, and not been an idle Observer of Things neither, *I believe, I may divide the People thus.*

The Gentry, or such who live on Estates, and without the Mechanism of Employment, *including the Men of Letters*, such as Clergy, Lawyers and Physicians, I cannot call less than $\frac{1}{25}$ Parts of the People.

The Tradesmen, such as Merchants, Shop Keepers of all Sorts, and Employers of others, either in Trade or Manufactures, Farmers of Land, Publick-Houses, such as Vintners, Innkeepers, Ale-house-keepers, Coffee-houses, Brewers, *&c.* are at least $\frac{10}{25}$ Parts more.

The Sailors, and all Persons employ'd on the Sea, or about the Works relating to Navigation, such as Shipwrights, Water-men, Barge-men, Keel-men, and all Sorts of Fisher-men, and the like, who, as adapted to the Sea-Service, are exempt from the present Case, may pass for $\frac{1}{25}$ Part of the whole.

The meer labouring People who depend upon their Hands, such as Weavers, Butchers, Carpenters, Shoe-makers, Labourers, with all Kinds of Manufacturers, and Husband-men, *&c.* including Apprentices, Servants of all Sorts, with Vagabonds, Loiterers, and unaccountable People; these I account to be $\frac{13}{25}$ Parts of the People of *Britain*; and out of these, according to the Calculation as above, the Number of 10000 Men being to be rais'd out of the Body of People as before, amounts to one Man out o a hundred, or thereabouts, as follows.

Take the People at ten Millions, $\frac{1}{1000}$ Part of ten Millions is ten Thousand, which is the Number wanted——

Being to raise one thousandth Part of the People for the War, that is, one Man out of every thousand Inhabitants, it will stand thus; 1000 People divided as before into 800 Women and Children, 200 fighting Men, you then are to raise one Man out of 200; half of these

these Men are Gentry, Clergy, Merchants, and Masters, &c. The other half labouring Handicrafts, Single-Men, &c. So your whole Calculation ends in raising but one Man of a hundred, of the poorest Part of the People——And it seems strange to me, there should be either Difficulty or Grievance in it.

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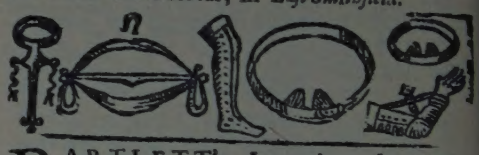

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